

THE OCALA EVENING STAR.

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LAST NIGHT'S MEETING.

MAYOR REARDON ADDRESSES A GATHERING OF THE CITI- ZENS AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER

Upon Live Issues—He Gives His Idea
of How the Interests of our Town
May Be Advanced—The Ad-
dress was Full of Good
Advice.

The Mayor's Address was Followed by
Speeches From Several Other
Gentlemen.

The business men and city council met last night in the council chamber to discuss the best methods of advancing the welfare of the city. There not being a quorum of aldermen present, an impromptu citizens' meeting was held, Mr. McConnell being chosen chairman.

Mayor Reardon was the first to address the house. His speech was very forcible, concise and to the point. He talked at large upon the necessity of the city's aiding new enterprises in the way of manufacturing institutions and better transportation facilities, and in strong terms advised the city to bond itself for as much as \$100,000 and advertise to the world that Ocala would give a donation of so much money, building site and franchises to any company or individual who would come here and establish a factory. He dwelt upon the natural resources of our county and Ocala's unsurpassed geographical position for an inland city. He spoke of the unlimited woods we possess, highly adapted to the manufacture of furniture, and advised a liberal donation to a furniture factory, instead of our people paying exorbitant prices for furniture and implements made of Florida, and doubtless some from Marion county, forests, shipped to Michigan and other northern states, worked up and shipped back, our unjust railroad tariffs forcing our people to pay twice the price that these articles can be made for right here in our city, besides the additional advantage of giving employment to our idle men.

Mayor Reardon also waxed eloquent on the subject of phosphate manufacturing, and the injustice to our people caused by no effort being made to work up the rock into fertilizers in this country, right at the mines, rather than send it to Europe and then back to this country before the farmer reaped the benefit. He called attention to the great reduction in the price of fertilizers should we manufacture it here, the center of the greatest deposits in the world. But no; this rock is manufactured at a cost that puts it beyond the reach of our vegetable and fruit growers.

Mr. Reardon dwelt at length upon the advantage to be reaped from the establishment of a canning factory—in fact, after the railroad question, this seemed to be his favorite theme. He cited this year's vegetable crop as a proof of the necessity of this factory, as only a small portion of the immense crop for this year was marketed profitably.

He advised the establishment of a spring mattress factory, and get the woodwork and filling from a

certain wood, well adapted to it, and found in great abundance in our hammocks, Ocala having an advantage over Tampa and Jacksonville on account of the saline atmosphere of the latter places rusting the springs.

The mayor urged strongly the establishing of a cotton mill here, the city to furnish so much money to a factory of such and such a capacity and number of spindles. He spoke of how this would revive the lost art of cotton growing, which used to be such a source of ready cash for the farmers, who could be seen on market days with their carts filled up with the fleecy long staple.

Among the most important recommendations was one for the establishment of a tobacco factory for the working up of our home-raised leaf, thousands of pounds of it now being on hand which must be shipped north, as the Cubans will not use Florida leaf in their factories, although in most respects equal to theirs. Mr. Reardon advanced the idea that should the Cubans in their native isle triumph in their struggle for liberty most of them would doubtless move their factories back to Cuba, thus making the necessity of a home industry of this kind more imperative.

The mayor said he had rather see our city back in the primitive condition of ten years ago than to see her any longer without public enterprises in the line he spoke on.

He showed how Ocala had lost her wholesale trade just on account of the high freight rates; and how Palatka was selling goods cheaper than our merchants. He said that Plant had Tampa under his wing, while Jacksonville was looked after by the F. C. & P. railroad, with no one, not even her own citizens, to take care of poor little orphaned Ocala. He put it to the patriotism of her citizens to know if such a state of affairs should continue to exist.

Mayor Reardon advised the city to build an electric road to the gulf, and connect with steamers to all principal points on that coast, thus getting our freight a good deal cheaper than by the present system. He also urged the necessity of an electric line to Silver Springs, with a line of small steamers on the Ocklawaha, connecting Ocala with Palatka, Jacksonville, and the Clyde steamers on the St. Johns. Mr. Reardon did not insist on an electric system as against steam, only that with the same power we could operate these roads and light the city too—the city to own both roads, as well as the electric light plant.

He also advised the city to own its own water works, deriving the income from these institutions.

The railroads treat us unfairly; they will not make Ocala a division station, as she deserves, but only a way station, taking all of their business elsewhere. So why should we favor them?

H. L. Anderson then delivered a few very forcible remarks, commending the mayor's views, and when asked his opinion on the cost of building and equipping the electric road to Silver Spring, said he thought it could be done for \$50,000.

Alderman Groves then spoke in a style peculiarly his own, advocating active measures to enable our city to regain her lost prosper-

ity, and giving some able suggestions as to how it could be done.

Mr. Condon then followed with some remarks foreign to the question before the meeting.

The chair then appointed a citizens' committee, consisting of J. A. Rowell, H. M. Groves and Geo. McKay, to investigate the practicability of the proposed enterprises and report to the citizens in meeting Tuesday night.

Additional Locals.

Ounce sailors, 50c., at Mrs. C. A. Brown's.

A. R. Griffin, of Orlando, is in the city.

C. L. Brown, of McIntosh, is in town today.

S. R. Pons, of Atlanta, was in town yesterday.

Arthur Doyle, from Sanford, was in Ocala yesterday.

Miles Andrew, from Pemberton, was on our streets yesterday.

W. A. Fulton, from Istachatta, was at the Ocala house yesterday.

Nice Sweet Grapes, Pears Apples, Honey Peaches, Plums, Melons, etc., at Charles Constans'.

J. B. Albert, of Jacksonville, autographed at the Ocala house yesterday.

C. G. Clements, of Panasofkee, was in the brick city yesterday on business.

George Floyd, of Augusta, was in town yesterday and registered at the Ocala house.

Mrs. Charles Sage, of Tallahassee, is visiting her mother, Mrs. R. E. Yonge.

Seventy-eight passengers from Ocala went to Tampa last night on the Plant system excursion.

Wallace W. Stripling, the popular traveling salesman of a canning factory, is at the Montezuma today.

Mrs. J. H. Fulks and Miss Percy Fulks, of Leesburg, are visiting with Miss Lola Liddon at C. A. Liddon's.

A nice suit of furnished rooms to rent, consisting of bed room, dining room and kitchen; close to square, nice location. Address P. O. Box 85. 13 1W

Major R. G. Wright of Oxford is in Ocala, and will go on today to Mulberry Grove, Ga., where he will visit his daughter, Mrs. E. C. Hood, Jr.

Owing to the cheap excursions the people of Florida are seeing a great deal of their state and have the pleasure of a little travel without very much expense.

Mrs. H. Stacy, at corner of Magnolia and Fifth street, will want a few good gentleman boarders at \$3.50 per week. Best of accommodations in town for the money. 17-1f

Don't forget to come out and see the boys of the hose company practice on Friday night, preparatory to sweeping in the championship at Atlanta.

The merchants of our town are getting ready to reap a harvest from the excursion expected in Ocala Saturday. H. G. Haycraft says he will put a thousand people here, and he generally does pretty nearly what he says. Out of this number we should get at least \$2 each.

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